

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan

Learning English with CBC



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta

The Alberta logo, the word "Alberta" in a white script font with a small orange square to the right.

Calgary

November 28, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 One man dead in Calgary police shooting (0:13)

Setting the Scene



Terrence Weinmeyer, 49, was shot and killed by Calgary police after stealing a truck. (Crime Stoppers) (CBC file photo)

It is not common to hear of people using guns in Canadian cities, including Calgary. However, police often carry guns when they are working. Sometimes, when a crime occurs, police must use their guns. This happens when the criminal is doing something dangerous or violent. Then, the police must shoot the criminal. This way, the danger or violence doesn't affect the police, or innocent people around them.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you think Calgary is a safe city?

What types of crime do you think happens in Calgary?

Have you seen police in Calgary? Do you think Calgary has more or less police than your hometown?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	block (v.)	a) hit something hard
_____	reverse (v.)	b) fighting against something, trying to stop something
_____	rammed (v.)	c) the crime of physically hurting someone
_____	uninjured (adj.)	d) to stop something from moving or going by
_____	custody (n.)	e) having or owning something
_____	convictions (n.)	f) being kept in a prison or jail
_____	resisting (v.)	g) to drive backwards
_____	possessing (v.)	h) incidents where someone was found guilty of a crime
_____	assault (n.)	i) not hurt, without harm

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

pick-up truck – a truck with an open area in the back, for transporting large items

opened fire – began shooting a gun or guns

released on bail – allowed to leave the police station after paying a fine

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2tksxk

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Chronological order

Look at the sentences below that describe events in the story. Listen to the story. Number the sentences in the correct order that they happened in time, not the order they appear in the story. You may have to listen to the story more than once.

1. _____ Weinmeyer got into the truck and put it in reverse.
2. _____ Weinmeyer was taken to the hospital.
3. _____ Two police officers shot Weinmeyer.
4. _____ Weinmeyer died.
5. _____ Weinmeyer stole a pick-up truck.
6. _____ Terrence Weinmeyer committed crimes such as resisting arrest and assault.
7. _____ Weinmeyer hit a police car as he was trying to drive away.
8. _____ Weinmeyer parked the truck at a mall.
9. _____ Police blocked the stolen pick-up truck.
10. _____ Weinmeyer was released on bail.
11. _____ Weinmeyer went shopping in the mall.

Food for Thought

Do you think police should carry guns all the time? Why or why not?

Do you think criminals like Weinmeyer should be released on bail? Why or why not?

How are the police in your home country different from the police in Canada?

News story #2 Three people wanted in puppy theft (1:37)

Setting the Scene



An 8-week-old French bulldog puppy was stolen in Cochrane, Alberta. (RCMP) (CBC file photo)

In Canada, dogs are a popular pet. Some people get dogs from friends or animal shelters. Some people get dogs from breeders. Breeders find strong, healthy dogs to make babies, so that the puppies are strong and healthy too. They usually choose two dogs from the same breed (type of dog), so the puppies are called “purebreds.” Some purebred dogs are very expensive. This French bulldog puppy, for example, costs thousands of dollars.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you have a pet? Would you like to have a pet? Why or why not?

Why do you think pets are so popular in Canada?

Are pets popular in your home country? Which animal is the most popular pet?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

involved (v.)	to be a part of something
theft (n.)	the crime of stealing
breeder (n.)	a person who keeps animals or plants in order to produce more of them
grab (v.)	to quickly take something with one's hand
follow (v.)	to go behind someone or something
released (v.)	published; let something be known publicly
sketches (n.)	quick drawings that show the main features of an image

1. My uncle is a rose _____. He grows roses and creates new and beautiful kinds of roses.
2. There is a great Picasso exhibit at the gallery. You can see his beautiful paintings, but also his simple _____ in black and white.
3. During holidays like Christmas, many people travel. There can be a lot of _____ at that time, because people leave their houses empty for days.
4. City Hall _____ their plan to build new bicycle paths downtown. A lot of people are excited, but others worry that it will reduce parking.
5. You should be careful in parking garages, especially when you are walking alone. Someone could _____ you and _____ your phone, bag, or purse.
6. When we moved to Calgary, my wife got _____ in a running group. She wanted to make friends and explore the city.

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/2tkt5o>

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. RCMP in Cochrane, Alberta, are looking for these / the / three people.
2. Two men went to the farm / home / office of a dog breeder.
3. The community is northwest / northeast / southwest of Calgary.
4. The men said they were there to buy a \$400 / \$4,000 / \$40,000 dog.
5. Instead, they grabbed the money / puppy / purse and ran out of the house.
6. The breeder tried to follow them, but one man pushed her to the grass / car / ground.
7. The men ran to a car where a woman / watchman / driver was waiting.
8. RCMP have released photos / statements / sketches of the two men.
9. You can see them on the CBC Calgary website at cbc.ca.Calgary / cbc.ca/Calgary / cbc.Calgary.ca
10. Anyone with information should call police or RCMP / Crime Watch / Crime Stoppers.

Food for thought

Why do you think these criminals stole a puppy?

What do you think the punishment should be if these criminals are found?

Do you think theft is a big problem in Alberta? What types of items are typically stolen? How can we keep those things safe?

News story #3 Two people fall victim to hairless cat scam (2:51)

Setting the Scene



Holly Rattray holds the cat she bought online, thinking it was a hairless breed (*right*). The same cat, weeks later, after its fur started growing back (*left*). (Holly Rattray) (CBC file photo)

A Sphinx is a unique breed of cat that doesn't have any fur. They are naturally hairless. Some pet owners like these cats because they are uncommon and unusual. Some pet owners like these cats because they don't have to clean up any fur in their homes. However, it is cruel to shave a cat that has fur. The razor could be dangerous. Also, the cat could feel cold and uncomfortable without fur.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you like cats? Would you keep a cat as a pet? Why or why not?

Have you ever seen a Sphinx cat before? What do you think of it?

In some cultures, some cats are considered good or bad luck. Does your culture have beliefs about cats?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Sarah was **cheated** by an online store. She ordered a Chanel bag, but they sent a fake one.
 - a. unfairly wasted time
 - b. unfairly prevented someone from getting something
2. In Canada, a popular **scam** is for criminals to call people, pretending to be from the bank.
 - a. making money with a cleaning service
 - b. making money by tricking people
3. Eddie has to wear a helmet at work. He **shaved** his head last summer so he could stay cool.
 - a. cut hair off something, very close to the skin
 - b. change the form of something, give it a new shape
4. Green eyes are quite **rare**, while brown eyes are the most common in the world.
 - a. unhealthy
 - b. uncommon
5. Before buying a car, you should **inspect** it by looking under the hood and at the tires.
 - a. look at something carefully
 - b. look at something very small
6. Shawn fell off his bike, but he didn't have any **wounds**. Luckily, he was not hurt at all.
 - a. marks or spots on the skin
 - b. injuries that break the skin
7. If a teacher thinks a parent is **abusive** to their child, they will talk to the police.
 - a. treats cruelly or violently
 - b. gives alcohol or drugs
8. Gareth had surgery on his knee last winter. Luckily, his knee **healed** after a few months, so he could play sports in the summer.
 - a. became older or more grown
 - b. became healthy or well

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

come forward – to offer information about a problem or crime

Kijiji – a popular online advertising service where people can buy or sell things

settling in – becoming comfortable in a new home or environment

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2tktb7

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. How many people have come forward?
2. What is unusual about Sphinx cats?
3. What kind of kittens were the women sold?
4. What did Holly Rattray do on Kijiji?
5. Who started messaging Holly Rattray?
6. Where did she meet his friend, to pick up the kitten?
7. When did she realize she had been scammed?
8. What does the kitten look like now?
9. What is the kitten's name?

Food for thought

Have you ever bought something online from Kijiji? How was your experience?

Do you think these private sales websites are safe to use? Why or why not?

What could websites like Kijiji do to make sure people don't get misled online?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	NOVEMBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with CBC for November 28th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	A man is dead after being shot by Calgary police on Tuesday. Police say 49-year-old Terrence Weinmeyer parked a stolen pick-up truck at a mall and went in to a shop. As he came out, officers were moving in to block in the vehicle. They say Weinmeyer was able to get into the truck and put it in reverse. He then rammed a police car as he was trying to drive away. That is when 2 officers opened fire and hit him. He was taken to hospital where he died. A woman was also in the truck. She was uninjured and taken into custody. CBC has learned Weinmeyer has a lengthy criminal history, including convictions for drug-related offenses, resisting arrest, possessing stolen vehicles, theft, and assault. He was released on bail two weeks before his death after being arrested for possessing stolen vehicles. This is Calgary's 9th police shooting of the year.	0:13
Story 2	RCMP in Cochrane, Alberta, are looking for three people they say were involved in the theft of an 8-week-old bulldog puppy. Police say two men went to the home of a dog breeder in the community which is northwest of Calgary. They say the men said they were there to buy a 4-thousand dollar dog. But instead, they grabbed the puppy and ran out of the house. When the breeder tried to follow them, one of the men pushed her to the ground. Police say the two men then ran to a car where there was a woman waiting. RCMP have released sketches of the two men. You can see them on the CBC Calgary website ...at cbc dot ca slash Calgary. Anyone with information is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers.	1:37
Story 3	Two Alberta women have come forward saying they were cheated by a scam involving hairless cats. Both women were looking to buy Sphinx cats, which are naturally hairless. But they say they were sold regular kittens who had been shaved so they would look like the rare breed. Holly Rattray says she bought her kitten after posting an ad on Kijiji saying she was looking for one. A man who called himself Trevor started messaging her. She arranged to meet a friend of his in Red Deer to pick up the kitten. Once she had it, and was able to inspect it, she noticed it had wounds all over its body. She realized she had been scammed once its fur started to grow in. Rattray says shaving the cat was abusive, but she does say since she bought the kitten on October 29 th , the wounds have healed and it now has an orange coat. And Stripes, as the cat has been called, is settling in nicely with the family.	2:51

Answer keys

News story 1

One man dead in Calgary police shooting (0:13)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>d</u>	block (v.)	a) hit something hard
<u>g</u>	reverse (v.)	b) fighting against something, trying to stop something
<u>a</u>	rammed (v.)	c) the crime of physically hurting someone
<u>i</u>	uninjured (adj.)	d) to stop something from moving or going by
<u>f</u>	custody (n.)	e) having or owning something
<u>h</u>	convictions (n.)	f) being kept in a prison or jail
<u>b</u>	resisting (v.)	g) to drive backwards
<u>e</u>	possessing (v.)	h) incidents where someone was found guilty of a crime
<u>c</u>	assault (n.)	i) not hurt, without harm

Listening

1. 7 Weinmeyer got into the truck and put it in reverse.
2. 10 Weinmeyer was taken to the hospital.
3. 9 Two police officers shot Weinmeyer.
4. 11 Weinmeyer died.
5. 3 Weinmeyer stole a pick-up truck.
6. 1 Terrence Weinmeyer committed crimes such as resisting arrest and assault.
7. 8 Weinmeyer hit a police car as he was trying to drive away.
8. 4 Weinmeyer parked the truck at a mall.
9. 6 Police blocked the stolen pick-up truck.
10. 2 Weinmeyer was released on bail.
11. 5 Weinmeyer went shopping in the mall.

News story 2

Three people wanted in puppy theft (1:37)

Vocabulary

1. My uncle is a rose **breeder**. He grows roses and creates new and beautiful kinds of roses.
2. There is a great Picasso exhibit at the gallery. You can see his beautiful paintings, but also his simple **sketches** in black and white.
3. During holidays like Christmas, many people travel. There can be a lot of **theft** at that time because people leave their houses empty for days.
4. City Hall **released** their plan to build new bicycle paths downtown. A lot of people are excited, but others worry that it will reduce parking.
5. You should be careful in parking garages, especially when you are walking alone. Someone could **follow** you and **grab** your phone, bag or purse.
6. When we moved to Calgary, my wife got **involved** in a running group. She wanted to make friends and explore the city.

Listening

1. RCMP in Cochrane, Alberta, are looking for **these / the / three** people.
2. Two men went to the **farm / home / office** of a dog breeder.
3. The community is **northwest / northeast / southwest** of Calgary.
4. The men said they were there to buy a **\$400 / \$4,000 / \$40,000** dog.
5. Instead, they grabbed the **money / puppy / purse** and ran out of the house.
6. The breeder tried to follow them, but one man pushed her to the **grass / car / ground**.
7. The men ran to a car where a **woman / watchman / driver** was waiting.
8. RCMP have released **photos / statements / sketches** of the two men.
9. You can see them on the CBC Calgary website at **cbc.ca.Calgary / cbc.ca/Calgary / cbc.Calgary.ca**
10. Anyone with information should call police or **RCMP / Crime Watch / Crime Stoppers**

News story 3

Two people fall victim to hairless cat scam (2:51)

Vocabulary

1. Sarah was **cheated** by an online store. She ordered a Chanel bag, but they sent a fake one.
 - a. unfairly wasted time
 - b. unfairly prevented someone from getting something
2. In Canada, a popular **scam** is for criminals to call people, pretending to be from the bank.
 - a. making money with a cleaning service
 - b. making money by tricking people
3. Eddie has to wear a helmet at work. He **shaved** his head last summer so he could stay cool.
 - a. cut hair off something, very close to the skin
 - b. change the form of something, give it a new shape
4. Green eyes are quite **rare**, while brown eyes are the most common in the world.
 - a. unhealthy
 - b. uncommon
5. Before buying a car, you should **inspect** it by looking under the hood, and at the tires.
 - a. look at something carefully
 - b. look at something very small
6. Shawn fell off his bike, but he didn't have any **wounds**. Luckily, he was not hurt at all.
 - a. marks or spots on the skin
 - b. injuries that break the skin
7. If a teacher thinks a parent is **abusive** to their child, they will talk to the police.
 - a. treats cruelly or violently
 - b. gives alcohol or drugs
8. Gareth had surgery on his knee last winter. Luckily, his knee healed after a few months, so he could play sports in the summer.
 - a. became older or more grown
 - b. became healthy or well

Listening

1. How many people have come forward?

Two (women)

2. What is unusual about Sphinx cats?

They are naturally hairless

3. What kind of kittens were the women sold?

Regular kittens who had been shaved

4. What did Holly Rattray do on Kijiji?

Posted an ad (saying she was looking for a Sphinx)

5. Who started messaging Holly Rattray?

A man who called himself Trevor

6. Where did she meet his friend, to pick up the kitten?

Red Deer

7. When did she realize she had been scammed?

Once the kitten's fur started to grow in

8. What does the kitten look like now?

Its wounds are healed, and it has an orange coat

9. What is the kitten's name?

Stripes